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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

May 12, 1993

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20554

PR Docket No. 93-85

Dear Sir:

I would like to comment and provide some additional information in the matter of PR Docket No. 93-85, proposal to amend the rules concerning amateur stations participating in message forwarding systems.

I agree with the philosophy and spirit of the NPRM and support this action. There are however, some details regarding amateur message forwarding that need to be further addressed in the commissions rules.

Paragraph 6 of the NPRM, states; "Because of the standardized format of amateur AX.25 frames, for example, both the originating and first forwarding station can be readily identified". This is not necessarily correct. While it is true that in any specific AX.25 frame it is possible to identify the station who originated the frame and any forwarding "digipeters", it is not always possible to identify the source of the actual message traffic. The originating station of a specific AX.25 frame containing part or all of a automatically forwarded message, in most cases, is not the station who originated the message.

The identity of both the originating station and the station to first forward the message is usually, but not always, contained in the body of the message in the form of either a routing header or an identifying character string, called a BID (Bulletin I.D.) or both. As there is no requirement or incentive to maintain the integrity of the BID, it is often changed or lost.

I propose that in order to insure the ability to identify the originating station and the station to first forward a message, the proposed rules be expanded to require that a BID, with a specific format, be appended to all messages by the first forwarding station. In addition I propose that it should be a violation of the commission's rules to alter the BID once it has been assigned.

I further propose that it should be a violation of the commission's rules to automatically forward a message that does not contain a BID. If a forwarding station receives a message without a BID he must assign a proper

0 of 5

BID before forwarding the message further. The station assigning the BID then becomes "the first forwarding station" and assumes responsibility for the message content.

An additional benefit of this proposed rule would be a reduction in the number of duplicate messages circulating in the packet network. Most automatically forwarding bulletin boards utilize the BID to identify and delete duplicate messages. If the BID is changed for any reason, the message could be duplicated.

I propose that the Commission adopt a standard BID format that would include the callsigns of both the originating station and the first station to forward the message as well as a unique sequence number. The following format ~~should be able to accommodate all situations.~~